

Grazing Management Enhancements



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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Manage pastures to promote species diversification and improve forage quality

Definition

This enhancement is for adding additional functional groups to the forage species composition in a pasture system. The four functional groups are:

- A. cool season grasses
- B. warm season grasses
- C. legumes, and/or
- D. other grazable broadleaf plants.

Purpose

The purpose of this enhancement is to maintain a consistent forage supply through the season, to fix nitrogen in the soil, to improve the quality of the forage mix, and to maximize forage site adaptability.

Where Used

This enhancement may be used in a Prescribed Grazing system.

Operation and Maintenance

Warm season grasses should be planted in paddocks separate from cool season grasses so that each can be managed for the benefit of the primary forage type. Legumes are nearly always seeded with cool season grasses, but may be seeded in separate paddocks. Other grazable broadleaf plants (brassicas, forage chicory, etc.) are normally seeded with a mixture of grasses. The variety of functional groups must be available within the pasture system.

The following criteria must be met:

- There must be at least 4 forage species present in the pasture system, representing at least 3 functional groups (each at least 20% of the stand on a dry matter basis).
- At least one of the functional groups must be a legume.

Payment Rate

The payment rate is an annual payment per acre of pasture.

Documentation Required

A map of the pasture with the primary forage species (those with greater than 20% weight on a dry matter basis) identified in each paddock.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and that, if requested, I will provide additional documentation to support the above information.

Signature _____ Date _____